

The Ladies Auxiliary has had a long and rich history on the county and state levels. They have marched in the State Fair and at July 4th parades, are a part of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Mercer County Firemen's Association, and have several Life Members who have joined the State Auxiliary. At their 50th Anniversary Dinner-Dance on June 19, they honored three still-active original charter members: Kitty Canulli, Edith Guadagno, and Grace Diesel Wilwol.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the past and present members of the Ladies Auxiliary to the West Trenton Fire Department on their 50th anniversary. Their dedication to the community is to be commended, and I send them my warmest wishes for another successful 50 years.

TRIBUTE TO WESTHILL MUSIC  
DEPARTMENT

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 1999*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, on April 9, 1999, 220 student performers and chaperones of the Westhill High School Music Department from Syracuse, New York, came to the Washington D.C. area for the "Festivals of Music." This event was sponsored by local corporations to bring schools from around the nation to the District of Columbia. Westhill was one of seven schools to give band and chorus performances in front of three judges. These college professor judges evaluated the groups in writing and listened closely and repeatedly to taped sessions. The Westhill group gave an outstanding performance that day, putting Westhill's Music Department among the best in the country. Thomas Lindemann, Department Leader, said the chorus and band received an "excellent" and "superior" rating, respectively, in both concert performances and the music reading exam. Out of the seven schools, the band came in second. The Westhill chorus came in third. These high marks signify how well these group of students performed based on these national standards.

The Westhill Music Department held their spring band concert on May 25th and the final choral concert on June 2nd.

I am very proud of these young people, who have exhibited discipline, sensitivity, and love of music while representing their school in the very finest Westhill tradition. I am equally proud of the Westhill Music Department, the parents, and administrators who are so supportive of this outstanding group.

MANDATORY GUN SHOW  
BACKGROUND CHECK ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 18, 1999*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 2122) to require background checks at gun shows, and for other purposes;

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Conyers' Democratic Substitute Amendment to H.R. 2122, the Mandatory Gun Show Background Check Act. Today, in this sacred chamber, we have an opportunity to address this nation's most pressing problem, gun violence, in a meaningful and effective fashion. We have a mandate from the people to take action that stems the tide of violence that is sweeping across our nation from Washington, DC to Chicago and LA. The biggest victim of this tide of violence is our children. From Chicago's west side to Colorado and over to Georgia, we have felt the pain of lost precious lives. Now, before we lose another precious life, we must take meaningful action.

Today, we have the opportunity to put in place meaningful gun control legislation, a task that we failed to complete last nite. Lets close the gun show loophole, lets ban the importation of large ammunition clips, lets raise the age to possess a handgun and semi-automatic weapon, lets make sure that every gun is sold with a safety device, lets adopt the Conyers' substitute. Why do we need these protections. Well I'll tell you why, in Chicago we have a gun problem, our children are shooting children. In 1997 firearms were used in over ¾ of the murders committed in Chicago. What makes this statistic so disturbing is that over half of the persons committing murder were under the age of 21. In 1997 Chicago had 246 murders of people under the age of 21 and there were 290 people under the age of 21 charged with committing murder. Chicago contributes more than its fair share of children to a terrible statistical category: children killed too soon by hand guns, and it must stop. How can we in good conscious let this situation go on. Did you know that since 1969 that firearms are the leading cause of death among African-American youths? For thirty years handguns have been killing African-American youth and we still debate whether or not we need this common sense gun legislation. When will we take this necessary action?

Now is not the time for loopholes in the bill that's trying to close loopholes. No one here is saying that someone can't own a gun, all they are saying is you have to wait, that your background must be checked out, and that children should not have guns. These are simple, straight forward, common sense proposals. Lets do it and make America safer and better. Lets not fail America's children again, lets take this opportunity to the right thing and pass meaningful gun reform.

MANDATORY GUN SHOW  
BACKGROUND CHECK ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 17, 1999*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2122) to require background checks at gun shows, and for other purposes:

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the McCarthy/Roukema/Blagojevich amendment. Common sense dictates that we, as representatives of the American people, support this measure.

This amendment is not about taking rights away from law abiding citizens. It is about closing a loophole in the law that gives criminals a free pass at gunshows. This amendment would provide law enforcement officials with the same three business days to conduct background checks at gunshows that they are now given when guns are bought in stores. This amendment would go a long way in ensuring that guns stay out of the hands of criminals.

The American people demand action from this House of Representatives. Mothers and fathers are demanding action to protect the most vulnerable among us, our children, from the onslaught of gun violence that is taking the lives of 13 of them each day. They are telling us that "It's the guns—stupid."

How many more children will be lost before Congress gets the message? How many more mothers will have to suffer before we act?

The American people are watching. We cannot shy away from our responsibility. We must rise to the occasion and pass meaningful gun safety legislation that will help end the cycle of violence.

CELEBRATING THE 96TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE ST. PAUL AFRICAN  
METHODIST EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 1999*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues an extraordinary church that is celebrating 96 years of service to the community of Santa Barbara—the St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in 1903 by Reverend J.P. Wright. The following year, the first church was established on the corner of Haley and Canal Streets. In September of 1913, during the pastorate of Reverend J.A. Duncan, the present building was completed. From the first organization of only one actual member in 1903, the membership has grown to approximately 175 worshippers in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, I am inspired by the A.M.E. Church's service and dedication to the city of Santa Barbara. The congregation has been an integral partner in the creation and success of local programs that fight racism and violence, programs such as Beyond Tolerance, the Pro-Youth Coalition and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebrations. The church has shown a commitment and vision that continues to be a beacon of hope to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I was honored to join the A.M.E. Church this past weekend in celebrating 96 years of fellowship. I thank the congregation for all that it has done through the years and wish many more years of success to the St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church.